



# Planning Update



November 2000

- 
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>☞ Thank You !</i>                            | <i>☞ Salmon Pass Trailhead Guided Hikes</i>    |
| <i>☞ The Planning Process</i>                   | <i>☞ Visitation</i>                            |
| <i>☞ Scoping Results</i>                        | <i>☞ The Historic Timber Community of Falk</i> |
| <i>☞ National Landscape Conservation System</i> | <i>☞ Research, Monitoring, and Inventory</i>   |
| <i>☞ Watershed Restoration</i>                  |  |
- 

## Thank You

On behalf of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), I would personally like to thank all of you who participated in the scoping meetings or sent comments regarding development of the Headwaters Forest Reserve Management Plan. Your active participation brought forth many issues.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions on the draft plan which we anticipate in April 2001. As announced at the scoping meetings, the agencies and the planning team will maintain an open-door policy for receiving comments throughout the planning process. If you wish to discuss any planning issues, please contact us during the development of the draft plan. The phone numbers are: BLM (707) 825-2300, DFG (707) 445-6493, Jones & Stokes Associates (916) 737-3010 ext. 4326. E-mail at [headwatersplan@att.net](mailto:headwatersplan@att.net).

*Lynda Roush  
Arcata Field Manager*

## The Planning Process

Currently the agencies and the planning team are arraying the issues the public brought forward during the scoping process and formulating a range of management alternatives that will reflect your input. This process will continue toward the development of a draft management plan expected by April 2001.

## Scoping Results

The scoping period began on May 18, 2000 and after two extensions of time, closed on August 18, 2000. Three public meetings were held utilizing a variety of formats to encourage a broad range of participation. Meetings were held in Eureka, San Francisco, and Sacramento during June 2000. A total of 94 participants registered at these meetings and brought a wide variety of topics and issues into focus. Additionally, the meetings in Eureka and San Francisco featured presentations by a variety of interest groups. These presentations were

---

---

## Watershed Restoration

extremely informative, covering in detail a range of issues and positions. Further focus and opportunity for individual input occurred in facilitated small groups where participants identified what they valued about the Reserve and what they envisioned management should or should not include. In addition to the public meetings, 200 written comments were received. The key issues identified regarded resource protection and recreation, type and extent of public access, and watershed and forest restoration. A complete scoping report is now available on the BLM Headwaters web site. Printed versions or other formats can be obtained by contacting the BLM at the Arcata Field Office by mail, e-mail, or phone.

## National Landscape Conservation System

The Headwaters Forest Reserve is a unit within the newly created National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). The Secretary of the Interior has entrusted the NLCS to the Bureau of Land Management to help protect some of the nation's most remarkable and rugged landscapes. The system – which includes the agency's National Monuments, Congressionally designated National Conservation Areas, and other areas designated for important scientific and ecological characteristics – will ensure that future generations will enjoy some of the United State's last, great open spaces. In total this amounts to 817 BLM units encompassing more than 38 million acres - an area larger than the state of Florida. This amounts to about 15 percent of BLM's land base. NLCS lands will enable people to experience the solitude and splendor of these undeveloped landscapes.

The year 2000 marked a milestone in the history of the Headwaters Forest Reserve. BLM and DFG proposed a series of interim measures for watershed restoration and controlling immediate sediment threats (Environmental Assessment AR-00-03, available on the BLM Headwaters web site). The proposals generated two public comments and a Decision Record signed by Assistant Interior Secretary Sylvia Baca in August 2000. The process of restoring the important watersheds of the Reserve, Salmon Creek and South Fork Elk River, began in mid-August. Approximately 75 percent of the largest road in the Reserve which penetrates into the center of the largest old-growth redwood grove, (visible on all maps of the Reserve) was removed. The roadbed was pulled from the edge of the Little South Fork Elk River headwaters and moved back as closely as possible to its original landform. The stream crossings, "Humboldt" crossings, culverts, and fills were removed, allowing streams to flow in their original channels. Work was accomplished through assistance agreements with local non-profit organizations employing local workers. Two additional major restoration sites were completed in the headwaters of Salmon Creek. See the BLM Headwaters web site where the environmental assessment and maps for *Watershed Restoration and Sediment Reduction for FY 2000-2002* are posted. Work was completed for road segments R1 and R4.

***Restoration photos on the web:***  
***<http://www.ca.blm.gov/arcata/headwaters.html>***

***For more information on the National Landscape Conservation System go to:***  
***[www.blm.gov/nhp/what/nlcs/index.html](http://www.blm.gov/nhp/what/nlcs/index.html)***

---

# Salmon Pass Trailhead

## Guided Hikes

In 1999, BLM and DFG presented alternatives for interim public access into the Reserve from the southern access route at Newburg Gate and Salmon Pass Trailhead (Environmental Assessment AR-99-15, available on the BLM Headwaters web site). The proposals generated 1,500 public comments and resulted in a Decision Record which chose an option for carefully controlled guided hikes managed by BLM. On May 18, 2000, guided interpretive hikes began in the southern portion of the Reserve. Running Thursdays through Sundays each week, and on Wednesdays for school groups. The hikes have become popular and well-attended. Over 600 visitors participated in 70 outings. Reservations for the four to five-hour hikes are made in advance through the Arcata Field Office. The hikes cover approximately three miles over moderately steep terrain. They are offered May through mid-November weather permitting.

## The Historic Timber Community of Falk

Throughout the summer months BLM interpretive staff conducted Saturday morning walks to the site of the historic mill town of Falk, a short distance inside the Elk River entrance. Using research into the town features and culture, tour leaders took visitors into a bygone era. These tours were built upon descriptions and anecdotes about the tough and colorful mill town life augmented by oral histories and interviews with the few remaining local residents who actually worked at the Falk mill. Nine walks were conducted and attended by 220 people. Eleven school groups toured the site.



## Visitation

Visitor use data from the Elk River entrance indicates that interest in the Reserve remains high compared with 1999, the first year access was open to the public. Rangers typically contacted 200-300 visitors per month this year. The Elk River trail is a popular site for evening walks for nearby residents. Based on a 1999 sampling of 596 Reserve visitors, Humboldt State University completed a comprehensive visitor study which provided information on visitor demographics, visitor experiences in the Reserve, their opinions of conditions, their preferences, and how they obtained information.

### ***Headwaters Forest Reserve Information Contact:***

***Bureau of Land Management  
Arcata Field Office  
1695 Heindon Road  
Arcata, CA 95521***

***Phone: (707) 825-2300  
Fax: (707) 825-2301  
E-mail: [caweb330@ca.blm.gov](mailto:caweb330@ca.blm.gov)***

---

---

# Research, Monitoring, and Inventory

As an interim approach to the many and varied requests for entry into the Reserve for research, BLM and DFG have taken a conservative approach pending the completion of a long-term management plan. Permission for research and monitoring has been limited to requests which pertain directly to the development of the long-term management plan,



and to specific monitoring and research mandated by the Pacific Lumber Company Habitat Conservation Plan. Additionally, research and monitoring were allowed if they pertained to items in support of, or mandated by standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan, and to other legally required projects. The following studies have been ongoing in the Reserve in 2000:

- Class III archaeological surveys**
- Sediment source inventories**
- Non-vascular plant studies**
- Corvid monitoring (jays and ravens)**
- Landslide mapping**
- High-flow sediment monitoring**
- Water quality**
- Fish population monitoring**